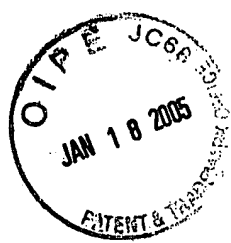


00862.001922



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|----------------------|
| In re Application of: |) | |
| | : | Examiner: D. Tran |
| YUICHI HIGUCHI, et al. |) | |
| | : | Group Art Unit: 2624 |
| Application No.: 08/909,966 |) | |
| | : | |
| Filed: August 12, 1997 |) | |
| | : | |
| For: PRINTING APPARATUS AND |) | January 14, 2005 |
| ITS CONTROL METHOD | : | |

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of these U.S. patent documents are not enclosed, pursuant to the revised rules at 1276 O.G. 55.

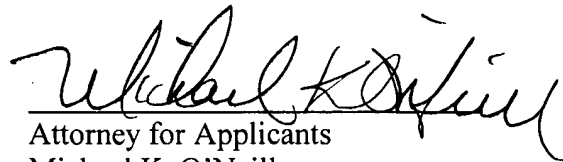
U.S. Patent 5,594,653
U.S. Patent 5,800,081
U.S. Patent 5,867,720
U.S. Patent 5,872,635
U.S. Patent 5,940,653
U.S. Patent 6,021,284
U.S. Patent 6,100,996

The Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed

invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialling the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California, office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

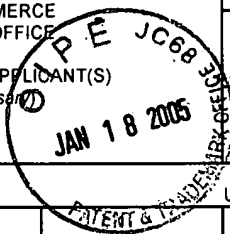
Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael K. O'Neill", is written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicants
Michael K. O'Neill
Registration No. 32,622

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|---|--|--------------------|---------|--|-------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| FORM PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary) | | | | ATTY DOCKET NO. 00862.001922 | | APPLICATION NO. 08/909,966 | |
|  | | | | APPLICANT Yuichi Higuchi, et al. | | | |
| | | | | FILING DATE August 12, 1997 | | GROUP 2624 | |
| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
| *EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
| | | 5,594,653 | 1/14/97 | Akiyama, et al | 364 | 468.24 | |
| | | 5,800,081 | 9/1/98 | Teradaira, et al | 400 | 74 | |
| | | 5,867,720 | 2/2/99 | Hirano | 395 | 750.06 | |
| | | 5,872,635 | 2/16/99 | Akiyama | 358 | 296 | |
| | | 5,940,653 | 8/17/99 | Maekawa, et al | 399 | 9 | |
| | | 6,021,284 | 2/1/00 | Serizawa, et al | 399 | 8 | |
| | | 6,100,996 | 8/8/00 | Amano, et al | 358 | 1.9 | |
| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
| | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT |
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| OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) | | | | | | | |
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| EXAMINER | | | | DATE CONSIDERED | | | |

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Sheet 1 of 1